THE TWENTY-FIFTH

ANNUAL REPORT

— OF THE —

Sanitary Condition of Bridgwater and the Rural Districts,

FOR THE YEAR 1897.

PREPARED BY

FRANCIS J. C. PARSONS, Medical Officer.

BRIDGWATER:
Printed and Published by Oliver Bridges & Son, Cattle Market.

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The Twenty Fifth Annual Report

— OF THE —

Sanitary Condition of Bridgwater, and the Rural Districts

FOR THE YEAR 1897.

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Since my last Annual Report the Borough of Bridgwater has been considerably extended. An area of 206 acres, containing 280 houses or more, with an estimated population of 1,235, constitute the main points of interest in this extension.

I estimate the Population of the Borough at 14,000 and on these figures the various rates of statistics will be calculated :—

STATISTICS.

Area 923 acres. Population (estimated for 1897), 14,000.

	1897.	1896.
Birth Rate	34·9	36·1
Death Rate	20·2	24·2
Zymotic Rate	0.9	5·2
Infant Mortality per 1000 Births	100·2	134·0

In presenting this my report to you for the Year 1897, I must congratulate you on the very favourable character of the health of the Borough, as gathered from the Statistics which I shall bring before you.

We find the death-rate much diminished, the zymotic rate of Mortality which in 1896 assumed the large proportion of 5·2 per 1000 of the population, has in this past year dwindled to the insignificant rate of 0 9. The number of Births is greater, but the extension of the Borough has militated slightly against an increased birth-rate.

In dealing with the various statistics, it is impossible to avoid the phraseology contained in my several annual reports. I have to treat of figures and how far they can be construed for or against the public health, and cull from them what may be of interest, and still further assist you in your endeavours to promote the health and well-being of those, who, as a Sanitary Authority, are placed in your keeping.

The number of deaths registered as having occurred in the Borough during the past year was 283, representing an annual death rate of 20·2 per 1000 of the estimated population, or 1·2 less per 1000 than that recorded during the past three years. Now deducting 20 deaths that occurred in the infirmary and 34 in the Union Workhouse, 229 deaths remain, equivalent to an annual rate of mortality of 16·3, as against 19·7 in 1896.

Year.	Population.	Deaths.	Rate per 1000	District.	
1895	12,600	272	21·5	Western	113
				Workhouse	42
				Eastern	96
				Infirmary	21
1896	12,600	305	24·2	Western	131
				Workhouse	37
				Eastern	117
				Infirmary	20
1897	14,000	283	20·2	Western	125
				Workhouse	34
				Eastern	104
				Infirmary	20

As regards the ages at which death occurred, 90 died aged 65 and upwards, and 49 under one year of age as against 61 in 1896, or at the rate of 100·2 per 1000 of births registered. In England and Wales, the Infant Mortality rate was 148·0 in 1896. It is highly interesting to note this change for the better in the rate of Infant Mortality, and we may with reason conclude that such points to the greater care exercised by mothers and those responsible for the protection of infant life.

As regards the general causes of death, 12 resulted from Phthisis, 43 from Pneumonia, Bronchitis or Pleurisy, 20 from Heart Disease and 10 from Injuries, in nine cases inquests were held.

Infectious Diseases' (Notification) Act.

This Act continues to work without the least friction, and has been of immense value to us during the past year.

The following have been notified to me :—

Scarlatina	...	14
Diphtheria	...	3
Typhoid Fever	...	4
Puerperal Fever	...	1
Erysipelas	...	11

From the seven chief Zymotic Diseases, only 13 deaths were registered, as against 66 in 1896, when an epidemic of Measles occasioned 41 deaths. We find ourselves in the very happy position of possessing for the year, a zymotic death-rate of 0·9 only per 1000 of the population.

Scarlatina occasioned one death, diphtheria two, typhoid fever one, (imported from without); Measles three, and Diarrhœa six.

Now this very satisfactory Zymotic Death-rate, whilst being considered a most important expression of the Sanitary state of a District, is liable to much disappointment, for Zymotics include a very mixed group of diseases, some of which have little to do with the sanitary condition of a District, however, it is a matter of sincere congratulation that we have been spared the ravages of an epidemic, with the terrible consequences so frequently associated with it.

January, 1898.

With reference to the Sanitary Work of the town for the year ending the 31st day of December, 1897, I am pleased to say that the systematic inspection of the District has been steadily pursued, and as a result of same, 382 notices have been issued as follows :—

Miscellaneous Notices	...	...	...	105
Notices brought before the Health Committee			...	212
Defective Water Fittings	...	,,	...	65
				382

The Notices brought before the Health Committee had reference to a total of 368 defects which may be summarized as follows :—

	Reported.	Abated.	In hand.
Defective Drains	16	8	8
,, Closets ...	40	29	11
,, Gullies	8	6	2
,, Shuting & rain water pipes	63	32	31
,, Condition of inhabited houses	12	12	—
Dirty condition of inhabited houses	25	17	8
Overcrowding	3	1	2
Accummulations of manure and house refuse	5	4	1
Animals and Birds kept in Insanitary condition	4	1	3
Dangerous buildings	8	4	4

The owner of the Property in Gold's Buildings is continuing the necessary repairs, and one house that was condemned, has been pulled down and is now being rebuilt.

The repairs to Property in Honeysuckle Alley have been delayed owing to various negotiations as to purchase, but attention is desired to the row of cottages on the east side of Hamp Street, which should now be thoroughly drained and put in tenantable repair.

SLAUGHTER-HOUSES.

There is no improvement to record under this heading, they are not kept as clean as they should be, and for another year attention has to be called to the want of proper utensils for removal, and the nuisance caused by boiling offal. Attention is also directed to the slaughter house at the corner of Moat Lane and West Street. The place is open to the road, and whenever killing operations are proceeding, a large crowd is attracted to the place, and there is no provision for stalling the animals previous to killing.

DAIRIES.

Occasional inspections of these places have been made from time to time, and the premises were found to be clean and wholesome.

BAKE-HOUSES.

These have been twice inspected during the year, and while some are in an excellent condition of cleanliness and repairs, others fall far short of it. It is to be hoped that on the next inspection, greater care for cleanliness will be exhibited.

WORK-SHOPS AND FACTORIES

Partial inspection have been made, but no defects necessitating any appeal to the Sanitary Committee were found to exist.

DUST REMOVAL.

The revised system of collection, owing to the enlargement of the Borough, has now been in force some six months, and the absence of any serious complaint tends to show that the scheme is working satisfactorily. As I have before stated, it rests entirely with the inhabitants of the Town whether they are willing to help the Authority,

DRAINAGE.

The Town is to be congratulated on the completion of the Hamp District Sewer from the Baths up to Hamp Street, and already it is doing good work in taking sewage from most of the houses in the Taunton road. The arrangements for flushing this sewer have been tried repeatedly, and found to work very satisfactorily. Portions of the work were through very difficult ground, necessitating extra expenditure in supporting the Sewer. Later inspections have proved this work to be thoroughly sound.

The extension to the Sewer in the Chilton Road has also been completed.

With regard to the Salmon Lane Sewer, it is a matter of very much regret that the action of the Corporation in seeking to remove a long-standing nuisance should have been the means of an expensive law-suit, the action of which has been to stop the completion of the works.

A reference to the list of notices brought before the Health Committee, will show that further progess has been made with the removal of the old-time brick hand-flushed closet, but there is no excuse, especially where flushing cisterns are provided, for the dirty condition of the pans.

I should like to draw attention to the evidence given at the enquiry into the late epidemic of Enteric Fever at Maidstone, by the Local Government Board, where Dr. Adams, the Medical Officer of Health for the Urban Authority, considered that the hand-flushed closets existing in the Town, contributed greatly to the spread of the secondary cases of fever, and so prolonged the epidemic, the cost of which to the Urban Authority alone is over £11,000.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.

The repairs at the Isolation Hospital at the Docks, ordered by the Town Council during the year have since been carried out in a very satisfactory way by Mr. F. Scott, and Mr. Bishop the care-taker still continues to keep the buildings and grounds extremely well. One patient suffering from scarlet fever was removed to the hospital at the close of the year.

With regard to the recommendations mentioned last year, namely, (a) changing the double beds for single ones, (b) the provision of disinfecting apparatus ; (c) provision of mortuary. Nothing has yet been done, and in my opinion, it is high time that at any rate the beds and bedding be changed, even if nothing else.

OVER CROWDING.

Nothing of a serious nature has been brought to the notice of the Authority during the year, in fact only three cases came under my notice towards the close of the year.

NEW STREETS AND BUILDINGS.

During the past year 207 plans affecting New Streets and Buildings have received the consideration of the Plans committee. The various works may be summarized as follows :—

Dwelling houses	169
Additions and Alterations	8
Stores	1
Factories	2
Additions to Factories	2
Warehouse	1
Workshops	5

Business Premises	3
Sheds	8
Additions to Schools	2
Roads and Sewers	6
	207

Taking into consideration the class of property being erected, the work is fairly well done, every care being taken to render the Sanitary work and fittings thoroughly sound. It is only fair to say that with few exceptions, the bye-laws are complied with by the Builders, without much trouble.

RAINFALL.

As in past years, tables are appended, shewing the rainfall at Ashford and Bridgwater, for the last of which we are again indebted to Mr. Henry Corder.

CONCLUSION.

I carnot close this general report, embracing both my own part of the work as well as that of the Sanitary Inspector, without recording the great help and assistance I have at all times received. The work is never finished and fresh duties are continually arising which all need constant attention. This year we were handicapped in a certain measure, by the fact of Mr. Macgowan leaving the service of the Corporation, and it is only his due when I say that he has steadily, ably, and conscientiously performed his duties from the day of his appointment, up to the day of his leaving. Mr. John W. Harris, who succeeds him, has been appointed by the Corporation, as Assistant Sanitary Inspector, and Assistant to the Borough Surveyor and I have every reason to be fully satisfied with the way in which he has discharged the duties of his office.

Your obedient Servants,

FRANCIS J. C. PARSONS.

FRANCIS PARR.

BIRTHS IN THE URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT,

During the Year 1896.

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.
Bridgwater. .	104	124	110	117	455

Rate per 1000..... 36·1.

BIRTHS During the Year 1897.

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.
Bridgwater...	134	122	131	102	489

Rate per 1000..... 34·9.

— RAINFALL IN 1897. —

Month.	ASHFORD.				BRIDGWATER.			
	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		No. of days on which 0·1 or more rain fell.	Total Depth.	Greatest Fall in 24 hours.		No. of days on which 0·1 or more rain fell.
	Inches	Depth.	Date.		Inches	Depth	Date.	
January ..	1·94	·55	7	12	2·29	.54		14
February ...	3·95	·80	5	16	3·75	·88		16
March ...	4·02	·77	3	19	3·82	·62		20
April ...	3·04	·45	6	20	2·75	·44		20
May ...	·95	·21	30	12	1·17	·22		9
June ...	2·56	·82	9	11	2·37	·91		11
July ...	1·18	·65	20	9	0·99	·57		9
August ...	4·29	·90	31	20	4·64	·98		21
September ...	3·33	1 00	9	15	3·38	·94		16
October ...	·71	·20	16	10	0·75	·28		9
November ...	·96	·27	28	8	1·50	·57		11
December ...	5·76	·83	30	18	4·23	·63		17
Total ...	32·69	1·00	Sep. 9.	170	31·64			173

Table shewing Birth and Death Rate, Infantile Mortality, and Zymotic Death Rate.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Population.	Death rate per 1000 Population	Infant Mortality.		Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.	
			Per 1000 deaths.	Per 1000 births.	Per 1000 Population	Per 1000 Deaths.
1896	36·1	19·7	200	134·0	5·2	216·3
1897	34·9	*20·2	173.1	100·2	0·9	45·9

**16·3 excluding Infirmary and Union Workhouse.*

TABLE SHEWING THE VARIOUS CAUSES & NUMBER OF DEATHS IN EACH MONTH.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July.	August.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals.
Scarlatina												1	1
Diarrhœa		1					1			2	1	1	6
Bronchitis	5	1	3	1	3	2				1	2	3	21
Pneumonia	4	4	2	3	3	2	1	2		1			22
Phthisis	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1			12
Heart Disease		4	1	1	3	1	1			3	6		20
Apoplexy and Paralysis	1	1	6	1	1	1		3	1	1	1		17
Convulsions		6	2			1		2	1			2	14
Renal and Bladder Diseases								1		1			2
Acute Rheumatism							1						1
Cancer			3	1	2			2	1	1	1	1	12
Debility from Birth													
Old age	11	4	6	4	2	3	3	2	5	2	2	2	46
Accidents	1		2		1		1	1	2	1		1	10
Diphtheria											1	1	2
Whooping Cough													
Measles	3												3
Typhoid Fever											1		1
	26	22	26	13	16	11	9	15	11	14	15	12	190

ANALYSIS OF BIRTHS & DEATHS REGISTERED IN BRIDGWATER DURING YEAR 1897.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Total Births	36	51	44	42	45	35	35	54	42	41	30	31	489
Total Deaths	24	26	29	22	18	18	8	14	13	17	18	22	229
Died aged 65 and upwards	9	7	10	9	10	5	2	3	5	4	7	5	75
Under one year	4	8	5	4	3	5	2	3	4	3	3	6	49
Of Fever											1		1
Of Scarlatina												1	1
Whooping Cough													
Measles	3												3
Diarrhœa		1					1			2	1	1	6
Diphtheria											1	1	2
Violence	1						1	1	1				4
Other causes	20	25	29	22	18	17	6	13	12	16	15	19	212
Inquest cases	1	1			1	1	2	1	1			1	9
In Public Institutions:—													
Bridgwater Infirmary		1	3	1	2	2	3	3	1	2	1	1	20
Union Hospital	7	3	4	1	4	3	2	1	1	2	3	3	34

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Bridgwater Urban Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Registration District.	Population at all ages.	Mortality from subjoined causes at subjoined ages.							Mortality from Subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of Children under 5 years of age.												
	Census 1891	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 & upwards.		Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Enteric or Typhoid fever.	Measles.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia etc.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
WESTERN	.....	125	27	8	7	6	31	46	Under 5				3	1		1	3		2	25	35
									5 upwards.			1			3	4	18	7	1	56	90
EASTERN	.....	103	22	19	4	4	36	19	Under 5		2				1	1	8			29	41
									5 upwards	1					1	5	8	10	1	37	63
WORKHOUSE	....	34	...	1	...	1	12	20	Under 5										1		1
									5 upwards							1	5	1	2	24	33
INFIRMARY ...	.....	20	...	1	1	2	11	5	Under 5										1		1
									5 upwards							1	2		2	14	19
TOTALS	12600	283	49	29	12	13	90	20	Under 5		2			3	2	2	11		4	54	78
									5 upwards	1		1			4	10	32	20	6	131	205

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

Number and Tonnage of Vessels belonging to the Port of Bridgwater, for the year 1896-7.

	1896.	1897.
Number of Sailing Vessels ...	93	93
Tonnage of same	5977 tons	6016 tons.
Number of Steam Vessels ...	9	9
Tonnage of same	406 tons	386 tons.

Number and Tonnage of Sailing and Steam Vessels which entered Bridgwater River for trading purposes :—

	1896	1897
No. of sailing and steam vessels ...	2351	2414
Amount of tonnage	155,727 tons.	158,438 tons.

The number of foreign vessels in 1897 were 62, and the British 2352, making the above total of 2414.

During the past year the work in connection with the inspection of Vessels has been continued, with the result that a very different state of things now exists to that of a few years ago.

The general statistics of the Sanitary work of the year may be summed up as follows :—

Number of Vessels examined ...	250
Number of Defects reported ...	18
No. of cases of Sickness reported ...	0
Number of deaths reported ...	0

The Sanitary defects reported to the Committee were as follows :—

Wet and dirty Forecastle	1
Dirty Forecastle	3
Dirty Quarters	6
Dirty Deck Quarters	2
Dirty W.C.'s	2
Bad Bilge Water	1
Want of Ventilation	2
Bad Water	1

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS Jno. C. PARSONS.

Rural Sanitary Authority.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

In consequence of the extension of the Borough of Bridgwater, and the formation of an Urban District at Highbridge, the Rural Districts have suffered somewhat as regards their population. This remark applies more particularly to Wembdon and Huntspill, and although I have added 1230 to the population of Bridgwater, I do not propose to take that number away from the estimated population of the District over which your Authority extends.

I must diminish your area by 290 acres, for of that there can be no dispute, but as regards the population, after much careful consideration as to the number of houses that the Urban Districts of Bridgwater and Highbridge have absorbed, I estimate the population at 19,000, and on that number the rates of mortality, etc., will be calculated:

The Year has indeed been most favourable, in fact we may look upon it as indeed a Jubilee Year in the Sanitary Statistics of this District. Never in my experience as your Medical Officer of Health have I known the number of deaths so few. The year 1894 was an exceptional year, 260 deaths only were registered, but in 1897 252 occurred, equivalent to an annual rate of 13·2 per 1000 living, and comparing most favourably with the average number of deaths, 277, for the past ten years.

109 died aged 65 and upwards, and 32 under one year of age. Of these deaths 122 occurred in the Western, and 130 in the Eastern Division of the District.

As regards the general causes of death, 13 resulted from Phthisis, 44 from Pneumonia, Bronchitis or Pleurisy, and 23 from Heart Disease. In eleven instances Injuries proved fatal.

From the several Zymotic Diseases, 10 deaths were registered, equivalent to an annual rate of mortality of 0·5. Measles occasioned four deaths, Typhoid Fever one, Puerperal Fever one, Whooping Cough three, and Diarrhœa one.

The Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act has helped us much, not that we are possessed of an Infectious Hospital for the reception of these cases, but it gives us timely notice of diseases that spread from one to another, and we are able to throttle them and introduce marked measures of Sanitary reform where such break out. Thus from evil much good results.

2 cases of Scarlatina, 6 cases of Diphtheria, 3 of Typhoid Fever, 2 of Puerperal Fever, and 10 of Erysipelas were notified to me during the year. Every care was taken to prevent the spread of these diseases and that with success.

Nothing in the shape of an epidemic has visited us during the year.

The births registered were 496, a similar number to that of last year. The various Tables as required by the Local Government Board will afford much valuable information. You will no doubt notice that Wembdon has a particularly low death rate and birth rate 5·8 and 15·0 respectively. I think 12·0 and 30·2 represent more correct estimates, considering that the Urban District of Bridgwater has absorbed nearly one half of its population and the above rates have been calculated on its population of 1193. As regards Huntspill no marked change is found.

The Sanitary Work of the Year is recorded in the Report of your Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT.

—o—

To F. J. C. Parsons, Esq.,
Medical Officer of Health for the Bridgwater Rural District Council.

Sir.

Herewith I hand you my Report as Inspector of Nuisances for the Bridgwater Rural District Council for the year ending the 31st day of December, 1897.

During the Year I have issued the following Notices to abate the Nuisances hereinafter named.

6 for Cottages in such a dilapidated condition as to be unfit for human habitation.
3 for Cottages overcrowded.
6 for Cottages requiring cleansing and white limeing.
6 for Dangerous Buildings.
4 for Cattle and Manure kept in close proximity to dwelling houses.
5 for Drains requiring cleansing and repairing.
6 for Drains to be properly trapped with Doulton's gully traps.
11 for Drains required to be new and properly trapped with Doulton's gully traps.
7 for Privies requiring cleansing and repairing.
10 for Privies without cesspits.
9 for Privies requiring to be New.
2 for Closets requiring proper pans and traps.
6 for Cesspits requiring cleansing,
3 for New Cesspits.
4 for Pumps requiring repairing.

87

During the year I have taken 50 samples of water and handed the same to you for analysis.

30 of these samples were taken from wells situate at Dunwear, in the parish of Bridgwater. All these samples were returned by you as unfit for human consumption.
9 samples were taken from wells situate at Somerset Bridge in the parish of North Petherton. One sample only you considered good.
2 samples were taken from wells in the parish of Cannington, one only good.
3 samples were taken from wells in the parish of Otterhampton, all bad.
1 sample was taken from a well in the parish of North Petherton, bad.

3 samples were taken from wells in the parish of Wembdon, and all were found impure.

50

Notices were served on the owners of wells situate in the Parishes of Cannington, Combwich, North Petherton, Otterhampton, and Wembdon. The owners have cleaned and protected these Wells.

The Wells situate at Somerset Bridge and Dunwear in the parishes of Bridgwater without, and North Petherton, I am of an opinion from the nature of the soil in that District, it is impossible to get pure water from a well. Dunwear contains 43 houses with a population of 256. Somerset Bridge contains 52 houses, with a population of 274.

The District Council at present are in communication with the Corporation of Bridgwater to try and obtain from them a supply of water required for the Eastern part of Bridgwater Without.

Should the District Council obtain the supply of water required for the Eastern part of Bridgwater Without from the Corporation, it is purposed by them to supply with water, any part of the Eastern part of the Bridgwater Without Parish, and this will include Dunwear.

Many minor Nuisances have been abated by the Owners and Occupiers by calling their attention to them, without Notices.

In August last, I found Mrs. Mary Ann Villis, of Nether Stowey, was using her house as a Common Lodging House, the said house not being duly registered, as required by the District Council's Bye-Laws. I cautioned her respecting same, but of no avail. From instructions I received from my Council, I summoned Mrs. Villis to attend before the Magistrates at Bridgwater, on the 9th of September last, and Mrs. Villis was fined 10/- and 7/6 costs.

There are 76 Cowkeepers, Dairymen and Purveyors of Milk registered in the District. I have visited nearly all of them during the Year, and found these Dairies and Cowsheds kept in a very satisfactory condition.

I have during the year prepared Plans, Sections and Specifications for several sections of New Sewers that have been laid down under my supervision in the undermentioned Parishes during the year :—

(1) A New Section of part 12 inch and part 9 inch Glazed Stone Ware Socket Pipe Sewer and Manholes, Road Gullies, etc., at Othery, at a cost of £65 6s. 0d.

(2) A New Concrete and Brick-invert Bottom to the Main Sewer at Chilton Polden, at a cost of £58 5s. 6d.

(3) A New Section of 12 inch Glazed Stone Ware Socket Pipe Sewer and Manholes at Cannington, at a cost of £57 12s. 6d.

Several Sections of other Main Sewers in the District have been cleaned and repaired during the year.

There have been many New Houses and other Buildings erected in the Parishes of Bridgwater, North Petherton and Wembdon, during the year, these have been erected under the District Council's Bye-Laws, and carried out under my inspection, and in accordance with the said bye-laws.

During the past year I am pleased to record that there have been less cases Notified under the Notification Act, than any year during my office, I consider this is due to the many improvements made in the Sanitation of the District. Although a good deal has been done to improve the Sanitation, there still remain many more improvements to be carried out.

I remain, yours obediently,

WILLIAM COLES,

Inspector of Nuisances.

2, Grosvenor Villa, Wembdon Road,
Bridgwater, 8th February, 1898.

BIRTHS IN THE RURAL SANITARY AUTHORITY, During the Year 1897.

	1st Qr.	2nd Qr.	3rd Qr.	4th Qr.	Total.	Rate per 1000. 1896.	1897
Stowey	22	22	23	20	87	18·8	20·5
North Petherton	41	28	30	28	127	25·4	21·4
Middlezoy	16	10	20	19	65	35·0	37·6
Huntspill	33	26	31	19	109	24·8	20·6
Polden Hill	19	31	15	8	73	23·8	26·1
Durleigh	1	...	1	...	2	20·8	20·8
Wembdon	4	6	2	5	17	15·0	31·0
Chilton Trinity	...	1	2	...	3	21·2	35·4
Chedzoy	4	6	1	2	13	41·2	44·4
					496	24·8	26·0

Table shewing Birth and Death Rate, Infantile Mortality, and Zymotic Death Rate.

	Birth Rate per 1000 Population.	Death rate per 1000 Population	Infant Mortality.		Deaths from Zymotic Diseases.	
			Per 1000 deaths.	Per 1000 births.	Per 1000 Population	Per 1000 Deaths.
1896	24·8	13·05	165.3	86·8	0·7	57·6
1897	26·0	13·2	154.3	78·6	0·5	39·6

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

FRANCIS J. C. PARSONS.

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1897, in the Bridgwater Rural Sanitary District, classified according to Diseases, Ages and Localities.

Registration District.	Population at all ages.	Mortality from subjoined causes at subjoined ages.							Mortality from Subjoined causes, distinguishing deaths of Children under 5 years of age.												
	Census 1891	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5.	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25	25 and under 65	65 & upwards.		Enteric or Typhoid.	Puerperal.	Measles.	Whooping Cough.	Diarrhœa and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia etc.	Heart Disease.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Total.
STOWEY	4229	43	8	1	1	2	13	18	Under 5							1	2			6	9
									5 upwards		1					5	3	5		20	34
PETHERTON	4995	64	10	6	3	5	16	24	Under 5			2	3				4		2	5	16
									5 upwards	1						3	9	6	6	23	48
DURLEIGH	96	1					1		Under 5												
									5 upwards								1				1
WEMBDON	1193	7	1			1	3	2	Upwards					1							1
									5 upwards									1		5	6
Chilton Trinity	141	2		1				1	Under 5											1	1
									5 upwards								1				1
MIDDLEZOY	1826	33	4	3	1	1	10	14	Under 5								2			5	7
									5 upwards.						1		3	3		19	26
HUNTSPILL	4386	47	11	5	3	2	10	16	Under 5			1					5		1	9	16
									5 upwards							2	8	2	1	18	31
POLDEN HILL	3265	49	4	3	1	4	7	30	Under 5			1					3			3	7
									5 upwards							2	2	6	1	31	42
CHEDZOY	315	6	1	1				4	Under 5								1			1	2
									5 upwards											4	4
TOTALS		253	39	29	9	15	60	109	Under 5			4	3	1		1	17		3	30	59
									5 upwards	1	1				1	12	27	23	8	120	193

Deaths in the Bridgwater Rural Sanitary Authority.

DURING THE YEAR 1897.

1897. DISTRICT.	PARISHES.	Population.	Total Deaths. from all Diseases.	Rate per 1000.	Total Deaths at ages 60, & above.	Total Deaths ages 1 year and under.	Measles	Scarlet Fever.	Croup.	Enteric or Typhoid Fever	Various fevers	Diphtheria.	Diarrhœa.	Phthisis.	Pneumonia.	Bronchitis.	Heart Disease.	Whooping Cough	Injuries.	Rheumatism.
WESTERN. —o— STOWEY.	Aisholt ...	74	1	13·5	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..
	Over Stowey ...	422	4	9·4	4	...	...	...	...	..	..	...	...	1	..	...	1	...	...	...
	Nether Stowey ...	634	4	6·3	...	3	...	...	..	...	..	...	...	.	.	1	...	...	...	...
	Fiddington ...	249	1	8·1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Stockland Bristol ...	122	—		...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Otterhampton ..	478	3	6·2	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Cannington ...	1147	15	13·0	6	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	2	1	...	1	...	...	...
	Edstock and Bere ...	.. ...	...	.. ...	...	4	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Charlinch ..	191	2	10·4	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Spaxton ...	912	13	14·2	7	2	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	2	2	...	...	...
		4299	43	10·0	22	9	...	...	...	..	1	...	...	6	2	3	5	...	...	...
WESTERN. —o— PETHERTON.	Enmore ..	285	1	3·5	1	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Goathurst ...	253	2	7·9	2	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
	Broomfield ...	384	1	2·5	1	...	..	.	...	...	..	...	...	.	...	1	...	..	...	...
	Thurloxton ...	210	3	14·2	2	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	..	...	...	..	...	...	..	...
	St. Michael Church ...	26	...	.....	..	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...
	North Petherton (pt)	3552	57	16·0	23	10	2	..	1	1	...	...	...	3	2	9	5	3	8	1
	Lyng ...	285	5	17·5	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
		4995	62	13·7	30	12	2	..	1	1	...	...	...	3	2	12	6	3	8	1
BRIDGWATER. Western part.	Durleigh ...	96	1	10·4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	...	..	...	..
	Wembdon ...	1193	7	5·8	3	1	...	...	...	...	...		1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Chilton Trinity ...	141	2	14·1	1	...	..	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...
		1430	10	6·9	5	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	2	1	...	...	...
TOTAL WESTERN.		10654	122	11·4	57	22	2	...	2	1	1	...	1	9	4	17	12	3	8	1
EASTERN. — MIDDLEZOY.	Othery ...	575	7	12·1	6	1	..	...	...	..	...	...	..	.	1	...	2	...	...	...
	Middlezoy ...	592	9	15·2	3	2	...	..	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...
	Westonzoyland ...	659	12	18·2	9	...	..	...	...		1	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...
		1826	28	15·3	18	3			1		1				3	1	3			
Eastern. — HUNTSPILL.	Bawdrip ...	340	2	5·8	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Puriton ..	733	7	9·5	1	4	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	..	1	1	...	...	1	..
	Pawlett ...	483	5	10·3	3	...	...	...	...	...	.	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	..	...
	Huntspill ...	2004	21	10·4	8	4	1	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	5	...	...	1	..
	Woolavington ...	293	10	34·1	5	2	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	1	...	...	..
	Cossington ...	218	2	9·1	1	...	..	...	..	...	...	.	...	..	1	...	1	..	...	...
	Chedzoy, (east) ...	315	6	19·0	4	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8		...	...	.	...
		4386	53	12·0	23	12	1							2	4	10	2		2	
Eastern. — POLDEN HILL.	Moorlinch ...	249	5	20·0	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
	Chilton Polden ...	363	3	8·2	2	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	..	...	...	...	...	...
	Stawell ...	167	...	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
	Sutton Mallett ...	119	2	16·8	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	1	..	...	...	...
	Edington ...	482	9	18·6	7	1	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	..
	Catcott Burtle ...	559	9	16·0	5	1	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	2	..	...	...
	Shapwick (part of) ...	352	7	19·8	4	2	...	...	...	...	...	..	...	...	...	...	1	...	1	...
	Greinton ...	108	1	9·2	1	...	..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..
	Ashcott ...	656	13	19·8	9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	..	2	...	...	...
		3055	49	16·0	32	4	1							2		5	6		1	
TOTAL EASTERN ...		9267	130	14·0	73	19	2		1		1			4	7	16	11		3	

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